

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11th February, 2014

Present: Cllr Miss J L Sergison (Chairman), Cllr D A S Davis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Mrs P Bates, Cllr Mrs J M Bellamy, Cllr P F Bolt, Cllr Ms V M C Branson, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr Mrs S Murray, Cllr M Parry-Waller, Cllr Mrs E A Simpson and Cllr C P Smith; Mr D S Ashton and Mr J M Gledhill (Independent Persons); and Town and Parish Council Representatives Mr J A Beadle (Ditton), Mr D Elvy (Aylesford), Mr A P J Keeley (Snodland), Mr S Perry (Borough Green), Mr W E Stead (Burham), Mr D Thornewell (East Malling and Larkfield), Mr R Ulph (Leybourne), Mr D Waller (Kings Hill) and Mr A T West (West Malling). Voting rights were awarded to the representatives of Aylesford, Borough Green, Burham, Ditton, East Malling and Larkfield and Kings Hill Parish Councils.

Cllr Ms J A Atkinson and Cllr R W Dalton were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21. Dr M McKinlay of Ryarsh Parish Council was also present as an observer.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D J Beach (Wrotham Parish Council), Mr M Carboni (Plaxtol Parish Council), Mr J P S Regan (Mereworth Parish Council) and Mr K J Terry (Hadlow Parish Council).

PART 1 - PUBLIC

ST 14/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

ST 14/2 ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer reviewed the arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints which had been adopted on 10 July 2012 to ensure that they reflected the agreed structure of the Joint Standards Committee and its Hearing Panels. The Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer advised the Committee that further minor changes had been made to the arrangements, to address the appointment of two Independent Persons and reduction in the number of vice-chairmen.

RECOMMENDED: That the revised arrangements, set out at Annex 1

to the report and further amended by the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer, be commended to Council for adoption.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

ST 14/3 OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY ON PERSONAL INTERESTS - A GUIDE FOR COUNCILLORS

The report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer set out details of recent guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government which gave practical information about how members could be open and transparent about their personal interests.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

ST 14/4 STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

The report of the Director of Central Services and Monitoring Officer provided an update on the views of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in respect of the new standards regime brought about by the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

ST 14/5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm